


Surname: Birchall	First Name(s): Dorothy	Army Number: W/	
Maiden name (if applicable): Gilder	Name used during service: Gilder / Birchall	Rank: Gunner	
Main base: Bishops Briggs, Glasgow Plymouth	Training base: Park Hall Camp, Oswestry Anglesey Practice Camp	Enrolled at: Norton Barrack, Worcester	
Platoon/Section:	Company/Battery: 443 (M) H.A.A. Battery	Group/Regiment: Royal Artillery	Command: A.A. Command
Year(s) of service: May 1941 to 1945	Reason for discharge: End of Hostilities	Trade: Predictor Member	
Uniform Issued: Walking out uniform and Mac. Battledress with trousers Gas mask	Photo:  Gunner Gilder		
Description of daily tasks:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Drill on the square and route marches. • We attended lectures. • We did P.T. or a route march and had a rota for cleaning the bedroom space and ablutions. 		
Pay book:	Not available		

Memorable moments:

- I had a choice – either to go into the A.T.S. or a munitions factory and as I had three brothers in the Oxford and Bucks Light Infantry, I chose the Army.
- When I volunteered in 1941, they had just started the mixed batteries with men on the guns and women on the instruments. I was No 6 on a predictor in Ack Ack and my job was to spot enemy planes and relay their movements to the guns, by shouting 'On Target'.
- Whilst I was at Oswestry for two weeks training, news came that the battleship "The Hood" had been sunk with the loss of over 1000 men and we went in the hall and had a 2 minute silence for them.
- We were on Anglesey for a month, firing practice, then went to Rushyhill Camp in Bishops Criggs which is just outside Glasgow. We were stationed there for 18 months, then on to Plymouth.
- We had to have an inoculation for T.T. and TAB which meant 48 hours confined to camp so we decided to have a night when everyone gave of their best singing, miming and anything they were good at! One piece of prose that a woman said stuck in my memory:

The Camel

The carnal desires of the camel are greater than anyone thinks,
And when the feeling steels over him,
He makes at once to the Sphinx
But the Sphinx's posterior proportions are buried in the sands of the Nile
Which accounts for the camel's perpetual ump
And the Sphinx's inscrutable smile!

Photos:



Park Hall Camp, Oswestry